DEDICATION

—OF THE—

ODD FELLOWS' HALL,

OTTER LODGE, NO. 50,

BROADWAY, TILSONBURG,

THURSDAY, JUNE 14th, 1894

1894

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STAFF OF OFFICERS.

Dedication Ceremonies.

Grand Master	Jos. Oliver, Toronto.
Orator	Thos. Woodyatt, G. W., Brantford.
Marshal	J. B. King, G. S., Toronto.
Chaplain	Rev. J. Veal, Brownsville.
Warden	E. L. DeCeu, P. G.
Herald of the North	G. Younie, P. G.
Herald of the South	G. Mantle, P. G.
Herald of the East	J. Chapman, P. G.
Herald of the West	D. M. Colborne, P. G.
Choir Master	J. McFarlane.

TRUSTEES

Geo. Geddes, P. G., Chairman.

W. S. Buckberrough, P. G. D. M. Colborne, P. G.

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Dedication Ceremony.

THE Officers, except the Marshal and Heralds, having entered and taken their respective chairs, the Grand Master, after some introductory remarks, requests the Brethren to rise and unite in singing the

OPENING ODE.

Brethren of our friendly Order,
  Honour here asserts her sway;
All within our sacred border
  Must her high command obey.
Join, Oddfellowship of brothers,
  In the song of Truth and Love;
Leave disputes and strife to others—
  We in harmony must move.

Honour to her courts invites us—
  Worthy subjects let us prove;
Strong the chain that here unites us.
  Linked with Friendship, Truth and Love.
In our hearts enshrined and cherished,
  May these feelings ever bloom—
Failing not when life has perished,
  Living still beyond the tomb.

GRAND MASTER.—The Chaplain will now address the Throne of Grace.

CHAPLAIN.—Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with Thy most gracious favor, and further us with Thy continual help; that in all our works, begun, continued and ended in Thee, we may glorify Thy holy name, and finally, by Thy mercy, obtain everlasting life. Amen.

GRAND MASTER.—The Brethren will please be seated.

Marshal and Heralds here enter.

MARSHAL.—Grand Master, is it your will and pleasure

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that the ceremony of dedicating this hall to the business and purposes of Odd Fellowship do now proceed?

GRAND MASTER.—Such is my will and pleasure.

MARSHAL.—Perhaps around no one thing in human history have the thoughts of man clustered with more of interest and reverence than around the altar. Before it all nations have bowed. At its sacred shrine all have worshipped. Here all sects and creeds, however divergent in faith, have offered their most hallowed sacrifices. An Eastern tradition tells us that the first man was made upon an altar—which God Himself had prepared for that purpose—and that both the Patriarchs and King Solomon erected theirs on the same spot where this one stood. Whether from this tradition or otherwise the solemn reverence for the altar sprang, certain it is that everywhere and in all ages, whose records have come down to us, the hallowed associations of the altar have formed the great central attractions in all worships.

The Targumists tell us that Adam built an altar after he was driven from the Garden of Eden, and that on this altar Cain and Abel, and after them Noah and Abraham, offered sacrifice. The first authentic account, however, of an altar, is that of the one built by Noah after leaving the ark, in commemoration of that wonderful deliverance. Altars were first erected on some spot hallowed by some great event or sacred association. Later they were erected on some eminence, and were called "High Places." But wherever erected, or for whatever purpose, whether for sacrifice or memorial, they have, in all ages, commanded the most profound reverence. Moved by this universal sentiment, Odd Fellowship has her altar—her sacred shrine—around and before which we, as Odd Fellows, bow and worship. Taking possession of this beautiful temple which is about to be solemnly dedicated to the ennobling principles of our Order, no further ceremony should or can lawfully proceed until we build our altar.

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Heralds of the North, the South, the East and the West, are all things now in readiness?

HERALDS.—They are.

MARSHAL.—Herald of the North, where mountain and valley are perpetually robed in crystalline white, as purity of life and conduct is the first tenet of our Order, without which no one can become a true Odd Fellow, bring forth and place as the base of our altar a white stone—white being the universal emblem of Purity.

Herald brings in a White Stone.

MARSHAL.—And may our lives be as pure and spotless and our integrity as firm and unyielding as the material of which it is composed.

The next principle we meet in our onward progress is Friendship—the emblematic color of which is PINK.

MARSHAL.—Herald of the South, the glow of whose genial warmth bedecks all nature with beauty and fragrance, giving to life new impulses and to development grander growth, bring forth and place upon this base the symbol of FRIENDSHIP—that with which the ancients represented the warmth and ardour of youth.

Herald brings in a Pink Stone.

MARSHAL.—It has been hallowed in poetry as typical of the springtime of life. Interwoven, by the great Architect of Nature, in every beam of light, as one of the seven primary colors; when disentwined by the power of the prism from its sister rays, it is found to possess the warmest glow and bends least from a straight line. This teaches us that our friendship should be ardent and true, and by no circumstances be turned from a worthy Brother. Heed well its admonition.

MARSHAL.—Herald of the East, whence the rising sun sweeps

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from earth the gloom of night, and bathes nature in the beams of the morning—bring hither thy treasures, LOVE, the central link of our welded three, whose emblematic color is BLUE.

Herald brings in a Blue Stone.

MARSHAL.—How deeply significant. Blue is everywhere and universally the synonym of true. When this ray falls upon the polished steel, that steel acquires polarity and becomes a magnet, ever pointing unerringly "to its mysterious attraction in the chambers of the north."

Thus every Brother, like the polished steel, when brought under the influence of the principles of our Order, becomes, or ought to become, so filled and permeated with love and goodwill towards his fellows, that, like the magnet, he shall be a sure guide to the struggling, care-worn mariner amid the fiercest storms of life.

Last in the triple link comes TRUTH, that imperial virtue fitly emblemed by SCARLET.

MARSHAL.—Herald of the West, sitting on thy throne of glory, as

"Twilight lets her curtain down
And pins it with a star,"

bring forth thy treasure, TRUTH, robed in the crimson hues of thy most glorious setting.

Herald brings in a Scarlet Stone.

MARSHAL.—Place it upon the altar. (HERALD PLACES IT THERE.) Symbol of glory, rank and power, it is worn not less by Priest than King. Out of it Moses was commanded to make a garment for Aaron, and it formed a part of the robe, the ephod, the curious girdle and the breastplate of Judgment.

How beautifully appropriate this color to the completed character of the true Odd Fellow! See to it well, my Brothers, that no one bearing this high distinction wears it unworthily.

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Dedication Ceremony.

Leaving the Subordinate Lodge, we now ascend still higher to the Encampment Branch. Here cluster virtues more ETHEREAL, if not more excellent. FAITH, HOPE, CHARITY, daughters of Heaven, fairest of the celestial visitants, in this sanctuary, upon this altar of Odd Fellowship let thy names be inscribed.

MARSHAL.—Heralds of the North and South, FAITH in ever-living green shall bloom, symbol of Nature's universal livery, upon which the eye resting never tires.

Heralds bring in a Green Stone.

MARSHAL.—It points us to that undying trust, which, when the body crumbles, lights the valley of shadows. Planted on the rock of Truth, it shall spread its never-fading verdure along life's thorny pathway, cheering the despondent, and bearing up, as an eagle's pinions, the fainting, sinking, careworn child of toil.

MARSHAL.—Heralds of the East and West, now in golden beams let HOPE appear, and spring the rainbow arch of promise from out the falling tears of life's weary pilgrimage.

Heralds bring in a Gold Colored Stone

MARSHAL.—Buoyed up with Hope, we will struggle on 'mid darkest hours, guided by that golden rule, "Whatsoever ye would that others should do to you, do ye even so to them." So when we near the verge of the dark valley, as brightest day goes out in the golden sunset, may it be ours to sink to rest amid Hope's brightest visions of golden promise.

Now abideth Faith, Hope and Charity, but the greatest of these is CHARITY.

MARSHAL.—Heralds of the North, the South, the East and the West, let it crown the altar. Its emblematic color shall be Royal Purple.

Heralds bring in Royal Purple stone.

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MARSHAL.—Type of the highest rank and power, it comes freighted with earth's richest treasures. It brings to man the highest earthly good. It spans the river of death. Radiant with celestial light, 'tis the symbol of "The Brotherhood of man, the Fatherhood of God, everywhere proclaiming as it goes, peace on earth, good-will to men."

Thus stands our completed altar, embodiment of the grand principles that underlie the stupendous fabric of Odd Fellowship. To-day we assemble in the name of our Order to set apart and dedicate to these ennobling virtues this edifice- PURITY, FRIENDSHIP, LOVE, TRUTH, FAITH, HOPE, CHARITY, rising in climatic beauty, from the "Mystic Seven" whose charms have drawn from the paths of error many a noble heart.

'Tis fitting now that the dedicatory ceremony should proceed.

The Choir will sing

DEDICATION ODE.

We dedicate to thee,
To TRUTH and CHARITY,
These halls of peace,
Our aim is here to bless
The race with hapiness,
From woes and keen distress
Their souls release.

May FRIENDSHIP, LOVE and TRUTH
Live in eternal youth,
Here in each heart;
Here may they claim a shrine,
And in their glory shine,
Shedding a light divine.
And ne'er depart!

Haste, LORD, the joyful day,
When love shall bear the sway
From pole to pole;
All nations then shall know
One brotherhood below—
Love's healing tide shall flow
To every soul.

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Dedication Ceremony.

Chairman of Trustees presents Keys.

CHAIRMAN.—GRAND MASTER: We meet you here to-day to announce that the work in which we have been engaged is finished, and our temple is at last ready to shelter us within its walls. It is not the business of the committee to allude to their own labours, or the manner in which those labours have been performed; nor would good taste permit them to descant on the fitness of our edifice for the sacred purpose to which it is designed. It is capable of speaking for itself through its proportions and its style. If these fail to impress you, any words of mine would prove worse than useless. I have only to repeat that our work is finished, and in behalf of Otter Lodge, No. 50, Tilsonburg, and of the Order in this place, I make request that this hall be set apart and dedicated to the business and purposes of Odd Fellowship.

GRAND MASTER.—MR. CHAIRMAN: In the name of and in behalf of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of the Province of Ontario, I accept for dedication to the uses of Odd Fellowship this hall, which has been constructed under your supervision. To you and your associates the present must be an occasion especially gratifying. To-day you witness the consummation of that for which you have zealously and faithfully laboured, and to-day you behold the recognition by your Brethren from the North, the South, the East and the West, of this, the result of your efforts, as a Temple, devoted to the service of those whose vocation it is to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead, and educate the orphan—duties which neither interfere with nor supersede the discharge of any other, social, moral or religious.

Brethren! I congratulate you upon the completion of this beautiful hall, which we are about to dedicate to those cardinal virtues which should adorn and elevate humanity, and the names of which we have selected as a motto and watchword of our

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beloved Order. Beneath this roof you are to encourage one another in the duties of benevolence and charity; before the Altar the good words of Friendship, Love and Truth are ever to be presented as the only acceptable sacrifices. From hence, as from a perennial fountain, are to flow the gentle streams of true Friendship, to gladden and make green many waste places. In this quiet retreat are to be cultivated those flowers that Love unfeigned shall scatter on the rugged pathway of life, under many bleeding feet. Here is to be sown the good seed of Truth in many hearts, to spring up and yield its hundred-fold harvest. It is, therefore, not so much this Temple made with hands that should occupy our attention at present as the great principles that are here to be disseminated. I hope and trust, Brethren, that our united efforts, with those of our Brethren throughout the globe, may lead to the raising and adorning of a still nobler Temple, which shall be consecrated by the approval of the Supreme Grand Master of the Universe, without the invocation of whose blessing no work should be undertaken.

The Brethren will now rise and unite with the Chaplain in prayer.

CHAPLAIN.—Almighty God, the Maker of all worlds, whom we are taught to approach and call by the tender name—Father: We would humbly draw near and beg Thy blessing on the work in which we are engaged. Whatever is amiss in us, do Thou make right by Thy Divine Power, and in all things do Thou overrule our thoughts and deeds to Thy greater glory and the good of our fellow-men. Amen.

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The Choir will sing

DEDICATION ODE.

"In God we trust!" the builders said,
  And deep in earth they sunk the wall;
In hope the corner-stone was laid,
  And raised the building over all.
No accident has marred our trust—
  No loss of life drawn forth regret—
Complete our Hall, it is but just
  That it to Thee we dedicate.

Here may we with Fidelity
  In Covenanted Love relieve,
And Friendship with Remembrance be,
  Till Truth her sovereign power give;
May Hospitality here reign
  With Toleration's kindly Love,
And Faith each pilgrim soul sustain,
  Until we reach Thy tent above.

"In Thee we trust!" and thus to Thee
  We offer all—for all is thine!
That Thy co-workers we may be
  On earth, in word and work divine.
When Brethren want, or death lays low—
  When orphans cry in helpless youth—
When widows weep in cheerless woe—
  O, grant us, "Friendship, Love and Truth."

GRAND MASTER.—The Brethren will be seated.

GRAND MASTER.—I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the House of the Lord.

WARDEN.—Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

GRAND MASTER.—Jerusalem is built as a city that is compact together (at unity in itself.)

WARDEN.—Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord.

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Dedication Ceremony.

GRAND MASTER. For there are set thrones of Judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

WARDEN. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; they shall prosper that love Thee.

GRAND MASTER. Peace be within Thy walls, and prosperity within Thy palaces.

WARDEN.—For my Brethren and companion's sakes, I will now say Peace be within Thee!

GRAND MASTER. Because of the house of the Lord of God, I will seek thy good.

WARDEN.—So be it.

GRAND MASTER.—Hear! hear! hear! all men: By the authority and in the name of the Grand Lodge of Ontario I dedicate this hall to the business and purposes of Odd Fellowship, to the dissemination of Friendship, Love and Truth, and to the diffusion of benevolence and charity in the fullest extent to all its worthy members, and by this [uplifted hand] solemn act, I hereby declare it to be duly dedicated.

The Marshal will please cause this dedication to be appropriately proclaimed.

MARSHAL.—Brothers, Heralds of the North, of the South, of the East and of the West: By the solemn act of the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ontario this hall is duly dedicated to the business and purposes of Odd Fellowship, to disseminate Friendship, Love and Truth, Faith, Hope and Charity in their fullest extent, to all its worthy members. It is his will and pleasure that the same be proclaimed, which duty you will now perform.

HERALD OF THE NORTH.—Hear all men: By command of the Grand Master, and in the name of Friendship, as pure, refreshing and life-giving as this water [sprinkling it], I dedicate this hall to

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the practice of that ennobling virtue which, uniting men as brethren, teaches them to sustain that relation at all times, each in his turn, helping and helped, blessing and blessed.

WARDEN.—Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity; for these the Lord commanded the blessing, even life evermore.

The Choir will sing

All hail the power of Friendship's name,
  Let every Brother hail!
Till Friendship's power and Friendship's fame
  Shall round the earth prevail.

HERALD OF THE SOUTH.—Hear all men: By command of the Grand Master, I proclaim this hall dedicated to Love, world-wide and ever-enduring [lights the fire on the altar], and may the fire that is this day kindled upon the altar of our hearts be as perpetual as that which burned upon the altar in the secret tabernacle of the Most High, of which this is but a feeble emblem.

CHOIR.

All hail the power of Love Divine!
  Our second, sweetest link;
'Round every heart her tendrils twine,
  And at her fountains drink.

HERALD OF THE EAST.—Hear all men: By command of the Grand Master, I proclaim this hall dedicated to the inculcation and cultivation of Truth [scattering wheat], and may the good seed here sown, of which this is the emblem, like the grain sown broadcast on the earth, spring up again an hundred-fold, for future use and blessing; and may that ennobling virtue which lies at the foundation of all other virtues, and which is devoid of guile and hypocrisy, teach us sincerity and plain dealing in our communications; and earnestness in the inculcation of whatever is good and true.

Dedication Ceremony.

WARDEN.—He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart, O Lord, shall abide in Thy tabernacle and shall dwell in Thy holy hill.

CHOIR.

All hail the power of regal Truth!
Hail her with voice and deed!
Hail her, strong men and sturdy youth,
A friend in every need!

HERALD OF THE WEST.—Hear all men: By command of the Grand Master, I proclaim this hall dedicated to Faith, Hope and Charity. Those graces, like these flowers [strewing flowers], fill the common air with fragrance, beautify and adorn all on whom they fall. The practice of these highest virtues is in itself the fulfilling of that law which commands us to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, to bury the dead, and to educate the orphan.

WARDEN.—A good man showeth favour and lendeth; he will guide his affairs with discretion; he hath disbursed; he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth forever; his horn shall be exalted with honour.

CHOIR.

All hail! Our glorious Trinity!
Our battle cry and creed,
Our potent three in unity,
They must and will succeed.

MARSHAL.—Grand Master: Proclamation has now gone forth to the four quarters of the globe, that all men may hear and know that Odd Fellowship has here a dwelling place.

GRAND MASTER.—The Brethren will rise and the Chaplain will address the Throne of Grace.

CHAPLAIN.—We humbly beseech Thee, O God, to bless the work in which we have now been engaged. Let the lessons we have received sink deep into our hearts, so that this shall have

been to us no idle ceremony, but a means of edification in righteousness, and truth, and humanity. May we all leave this place with our good resolutions strengthened, our charities enlarged, and our hearts expanded in all-embracing love toward our Brethren of every tongue and clime. Bless, O Heavenly Father, the Order of which we are members, aid us in the good work of Benevolence and Charity, to which we are pledged, and give direction and success to our efforts. Bless this edifice in the promotion of the good objects to which it has this day been set apart. Let Thy protecting care be over the Brethren who here shall meet together; keep their feet upon the right path, and guide them by Thy power in the way everlasting; make them faithful to their duties, and zealous in every good word and work, so that when the solemn close of life comes, the soul of each may be stayed on Thee; and unto Thee, Our God and Father, be ascribed glory and dominion and power, world without end. Amen.

GRAND MASTER.—The Brethren will now be seated.

The Choir will sing

THE SPREAD OF OUR ORDER.

Throughout this wide creation,
O'er every land and sea,
Odd Fellowship's extending
Its deeds of Charity.
With joy its steps attending,
It guards the feet of youth
From paths of sin and sorrow,
By Friendship, Love and Truth.

Whene'er we meet together,
For counsel or for aid,
May love of purest virtue
Each Brother's heart pervade,
With Temperance to guide us,
Assisted from above,
May all our acts be governed
By Friendship, Truth and Love.

And bless, O God of Heaven,
  This Lodge of Brothers here;
O guard, protect and shield them
  From trouble, care and fear!
Until Thou shalt transport them
  To the Grand Lodge above,
To sing, with ransomed millions,
  Of Friendship, Truth and Love.

GRAND MASTER.—My Brethren, I trust that the solemn ceremonies of this occasion may not be lost upon our hearts. In setting apart this hall for its noble purposes, we have renewed our vows to practise conscientiously the lessons of our beloved Order. Let us never forget the imperative command of our laws, "To visit the sick, to relieve the distressed, to bury the dead and educate the orphan." Let us not forget, moreover, that besides these good works of charity, Odd Fellowship has high and important lessons to inculcate; lessons that, if attentively listened to, and practiced by all, would elevate the character of man, and hasten the coming of the day of universal peace and love.

Brethren of Otter Lodge, No. 50, Tilsonburg, we now again deliver into your hands [presenting the keys to the Chairman] this beautiful Temple you have elevated to our Order. Joy be within its walls and Peace a constant guest! May these walls never echo with the sound of an angry or unkind word. May all the influences that flow hence be good and for good, now and forever. Amen.

The Choir will sing

SOUND THE GLAD CHORUS.

Sound the glad chorus! Let praises arise,
  In works of our Order, to God in the skies.
Sound the glad chorus! Let praises arise,
  In works of our Order, to God in the skies.
Sing! for the light of His truth is advancing,
  And darkness and suff'ring are fleeing away;
His love, in its warmth, human souls is entrancing,
  And friendship, on earth, is asserting its sway.
Sound the glad chorus! Let praises arise,
  In works of our Order, to God in the skies.
Sound the glad chorus! Let praises arise,
  In works of our Order, to God in the skies,
  To God in the skies, to God in the skies.

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Welcome Odd Fellowship! Praise to the Lord!
His love is its buckler, His truth is its sword.
Welcome Odd Fellowship! Praise to the Lord!
His love is its buckler, His truth is its sword.
Brethren raised up from despair, are its story,
And orphans protected its jewellery bright;
The tears of the widow—from gloom turned to glory,
Like the bow on a cloud—grow bright in its light.
Sound the glad chorus! Let praises ascend
To God, in the work of the heart and the hand.
Sound the glad chorus! Let praises ascend
To God, in the work of the heart and the hand.
The heart and the hand, the heart and the hand.

The Grand Warden, Thos. Woodyatt of Brantford, will now deliver an address.

GRAND MASTER.—The audience will please rise and unite in the

DOXOLOGY.

TUNE—OLD HUNDRED.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Praise Him, all creatures here below!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host!
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

GRAND MASTER.—The Chaplain will pronounce the benediction.

CHAPLAIN.—Now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, I commend you and the whole family of man: and to Him, the only wise God, our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, now and forever. Amen.

OTTER LODGE

INSTITUTED MARCH 16TH, 1868.

PRESENT OFFICERS.

I. P. G.	L. R. Short.
N. G.	B. D. Livingstone.
V. G.	Thos. Fero.
R. Secy.	H. Scott, P. G.
P. Secy.	E. G. Sutherland.
Treas.	Geo. Geddes, P. G.
Warden	Geo. Mantle, P. G.
Con.	E. L. Brown.
I. G.	D. M. Colborne, P. G.
O. G.	A. Young.
R. S. N. G.	G. O. Maddock.
L. S. N. G.	W. Ferguson.
R. S. V. G.	G. E. Leach.
L. S. V. G.	W. Hayton.
R. S. S.	W. Crosby.
L. S. S.	J. McFarlane.
Chap.	W. S. Buckberrough, P. G.

DEDICATION COMMITTEE.

B. D. Livingstone, Chairman.
H. Scott, Secretary.
W. McCollom, Treasurer.
Thos. Fero,
Geo. Younie, P. G.
Fred Brown,
W. S. Buckberrough, P. G.

OBSERVER PRINTING HOUSE,
TILSONBURG.